

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 HA-05 H-01 JUSE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 TRSE-00 SS-15 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8469
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: DEVELOPMENTS 13/14 MARCH

REF: SANTIAGO 1747

1. THE SANTIAGO NEWSPAPERS MARCH 14 REPORT THAT SPECIAL INVESTIGATING JUDGE LIBEDINSKY HAS DETERMINED THE DATES ON WHICH PERSONS IDENTIFIED AS WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL DEPARTED AND RETURNED TO CHILE. APPARENTLY, THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY A CHECK OF AIRLINE AND IMMIGRATION RECORDS. ACCORDING TO "EL MERCURIO" THE DEPARTURE DATE WAS AUGUST 21, 1976. LIBEDINSKY SAID THAT HIS INVESTIGATION WILL NOW ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH THE TRUE IDENTITIES OF WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL. HE DESCRIBED PROGRESS IN HIS INVESTIGATION TO DATE AS RAPID, BUT THAT HE HAS STILL NOT FOUND THE MISSING PASSPORTS.

2. USG LAWYER ETCHEBERRY MET FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH FIRST CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE JUANA GONZALEZ MARCH 13 AND WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE PRESS UPON DEPARTURE FROM HER
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CHAMBERS. HE DESCRIBED HIS VISIT AS AN OFFICIAL CALL TO BRING HIMSELF UP-TO-DATE ON ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR AND IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHAT REQUESTS ON HIS PART WERE NECESSARY. HE POINTED OUT THAT AS THE USG LAWYER, HE COULD REQUEST THE QUESTIONING OF ANY PERSON WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE IDENTITIES OF WILLIAMS AND ROMERAL. ETCHEBERRY ALSO TOLD THE PRESS

THAT HE MAY GO TO THE UNITED STATES SHORTLY TO DISCUSS THE LETTERS ROGATORY WITH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS. HE SAID THAT HE MAY MEET WITH SPECIAL INVESTIGATING JUDGE LIBEDINSKY AND WITH INTERIOR UNDERSECRETARY MONTERO (JUST RETURNED FROM THE US).

3. "EL MERCURIO" AND "LA TERCERA" OF MARCH 14 GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO THE "NEWSWEEK" STORY CLAIMING THAT TOWNLEY HAD CONTACTS WITH THE CIA. ALTHOUGH BURIED, BOTH STORIES INCLUDE COMMENT BY CIA OFFICIAL THAT AGENCY NEVER FOLLOWED UP TOWNLEY'S OVERTURES. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT ARMANDO FERNANDEZ' SISTER LIVING IN THE US HAS IDENTIFIED ROMERAL'S PICTURE AS THAT OF HER BROTHER.
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